

Message Text

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ACTION HUD-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9155

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TGEN, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT: NEW TOWNS DELEGATION (10.06)

REF: STATE 105381

1. IN JUNE 21 VISIT TO EMB SCIOFFICE, JACK UNDERHILL OF HUD REPORTED ON GENERALLY POSITIVE VISIT OF SUBJECT WORKING GROUP. UNDERHILL NOTED THAT DELEGATION HAD NUMEROUS FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET NEW TOWN SPECIALISTS AND LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT SOVIET POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO PLANNING NEW TOWNS. UNDERHILL NOTED THAT THE US AND THE USSR FACE MANY SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN THIS FIELD. IN ONE IMPORTANT AREA, CONTROLLING POPULATION GROWTH OF CITIES, BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE FAILED TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE POLICY.

2. UNDERHILL NOTED THAT SOVIETS DID NOT ANSWER MOST OF THE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION WHICH THE US SIDE HAD POSED IN REF. SINCE MOST OF THESE QUESTIONS INVOLVED THE MANAGEMENT, RATHER THAN THE PLANNING OR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TOWNS, UNDERHILL COMMENTED THAT IN THE FUTURE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO INCLUDE IN THE PROGRAM DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS INVOLVED IN QUESTIONS MORE DIRECTLY RELATED TO NEW TOWN MANAGEMENT, SUCH AS FINANCE. UNDERHILL, NOTED, HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIETS SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE CONCEPT OF NEW TOWN MANAGEMENT EQUIVALENT TO OUR OWN.

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ONE AREA OF MANAGEMENT IN WHICH SOVIETS DID EVINCE GREAT INTEREST WAS COMPUTER APPLICATIONS.

3. MAIN TASK OF SUBJECT WORKING GROUP IS TO WRITE TWO JOINT PUBLICATIONS ABOUT NEW TOWNS. THEIR COMPLETION WILL SATISFY THE MOST IMPORTANT IMMEDIATE PURPOSE OF US-USSR COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD. HOWEVER, SOVIETS HAVE MORE

EXPERIENCE IN CONSTRUCTING LARGE, FREE-STANDING NEW TOWNS THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH SOVIET PRACTICE IN THIS AREA HAS MANY NEGATIVE ASPECTS - CONFORMITY, SHODDY CONSTRUCTION, AND DEPRESSING APPEARANCE -- UNDERHILL NOTED THAT STUDY OF THESE PROBLEMS COULD HELP US AVOID REPEATING SOME OF SAME MISTAKES. IN ADDITION, SOME SOVIET PRACTICES, SUCH AS COGENERATION OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND MUNICIPAL HEATING ARE EFFICIENT AND WORTHY OF FURTHER STUDY. UNDERHILL NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT MORE WORK IN THIS AREA WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.

4. UNDERHILL MENTIONED THAT SOVIETS HAD CRITICIZED CERTAIN PASSAGES OF HIS BOOK, "SOVIET NEW TOWNS", WHICH DESCRIBED SOVIET NEW TOWN POLICY AS AN INSTRUMENT OF RUSSIFICATION. SOVIETS GAVE MATERIAL WHICH ALLEGEDLY REFUTES THIS CONTENTION TO UNDERHILL, WHO PROMISED TO STUDY IT AND TO MODIFY HIS CONCLUSIONS IN THE SECOND EDITION OF THE BOOK -- IF THE NEW INFORMATION APPEARED TO WARRANT THESE CHANGES. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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